

Federal Lands Program Summer 2021 Update

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Federal Lands Program (FLP) finished the 2019-21 biennium having successfully executed a wide variety of restoration projects across the state. DNR uses the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) as its primary tool to complete this work through state contracts. GNA will continue to play a prominent role as the program prepares for a significant ramping up of work for the 2021-23 biennium.

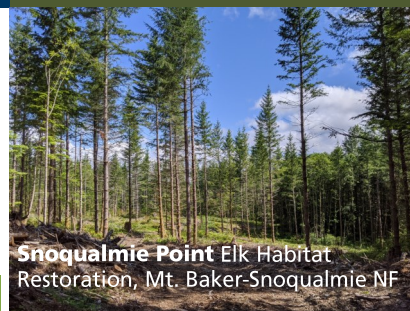
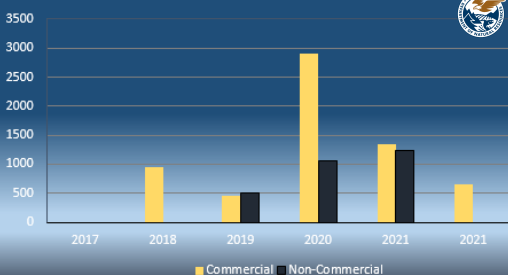
Program staffing remained stable at 15.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions dedicated to GNA-driven restoration projects on federal land. As a milestone for the program, all existing FTE's transitioned to permanent status, demonstrating the long-term commitment of the department to projects in national forests across Washington.

The FLP closed out the biennium having successfully expended almost the full entirety of the \$2 million in state capital appropriated for GNA-related projects through FLP implementation. These funds played a significant role in putting boots on the ground, implementing projects across the state, developing contracts and purchasing necessary supplies and equipment.

BY THE NUMBERS 2017-2021

- DNR produced **4,710** acres of commercial restoration yielding **49.2 MMBF** and **2,796** acres of non-commercial fuels reduction in priority areas of Washington's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan during the 2019-21 biennium
- Produced **956** acres of restoration treatments yielding **8.8 MMBF** of timber during the 2017-2019 biennium
- Installations or designs of **10 aquatic improvement projects** and **98 miles of road improvements**
- **Fourteen** sale contracts sold; **58.2 MMBF**
- **Seven** fuels reduction contracts sold
- Pile burning, Presales/Engineering support, NEPA Stand Exams, Post-wildfire monitoring, Riparian Monitoring, AIP Removals, road improvements and decommissioning, permanent bridge installations
- **13** Projects completed, **29** in Progress, **37** Planned

GNA Restoration Acres 2017-2021



Snoqualmie Point Elk Habitat Restoration, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF

BACKGROUND

There are more than 2.7 million acres of unhealthy forests in Washington that have grown unnaturally dense from past management practices and more than a century of fire suppression. Restoring forests improves their natural resilience to wildfire, insect infestation and disease, drought, and improves fish and wildlife habitat.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service are increasing the pace and scale of forest health treatments and restoration projects in forests across Washington state through the mutual benefits of an agreement called the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) between the two agencies.

GNA authorizes the state to act as a trusted agent of the federal government to accomplish a variety of forest, range, and watershed restoration in national forests with the additional benefit of using state processes and resources.

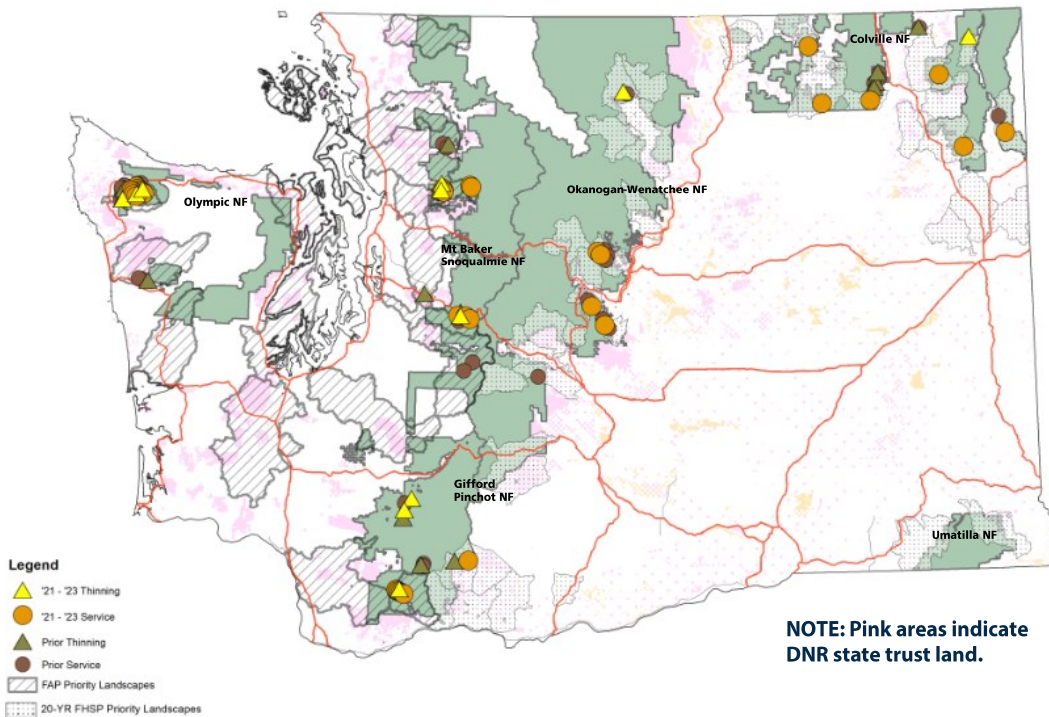


2D Bridge Core Sampling
Olympic National Forest



West Trout Lake Project, Colville National Forest



Federal Lands Program
21-23' Biennial Targets

Statewide

4.0 FTE – Program
2.0 FTE – Operations
6.0 FTE – NEPA Team
Statewide Support

GPNF

4.0 FTE
11,000 MBF
1,150 Acres
6 AIPs
23 Rd Miles

OWNF

3.0 FTE
4,000 MBF
5,600 Acres
5 Rd Miles

ONF

3.0 FTE
10,500 MBF
850 Acres
9 AIPs
22 Rd Miles

CNF

6.0 FTE
15,500 MBF
7,900 Acres
6 Rd Miles

MBSNF

1.0 FTE
5,000 MBF
500 Acres
8 AIPs
29 Rd Miles

16,000 Acres**46,000 MBF****75 Road Miles
Improved****23 Aquatic
Improvement
Projects****Decommission
10 Road Miles****House Bill 1168: Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers**

The 2021 Washington State Legislative session yielded a significant turning point for an already long-standing partnership between the DNR and the USFS. **House Bill 1168** was Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz's number one legislative priority to tackle the ongoing crisis of deteriorating forest conditions across all landowners. Fully funded with **\$125 million dollars**, this landmark piece of legislation brings new tools and resources to prevent wildfires, restore forests, and build resilient communities.

Approximately **\$9.3M** of this funding is planned for use by the Federal Lands Program to accomplish 2021-23 biennial targets and leveraging of existing federal revenue to complete projects representing just some of the work DNR does on federal lands. Below are just some of the benefits that HB 1168 will bring to the table for GNA in Washington:

21-23' Target Implementation

⇒ **GNA: \$4.3M Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Engineering Contracts**

5 FTE for Field Operations Capacity

⇒ **GNA: Engineers and Restoration Specialists**

6 FTE for NEPA Planning Capacity

⇒ **Planners, Scientists and Biologists, Archeologist**
⇒ **\$750K for NEPA Contracting Resources**

MORE INFORMATION

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